Dividend earned by ONGC

†532. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dividend earned by Government oil company ONGC during the first six months of 2004-05 was more than that of the same period last year;

(b) if so, the amount of the increased dividend together with the quantum of excess crude oil produced by ONGC as compared to the last year; and

(c) the total amount of business done in each of the six months of the last year and 2004-05 by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) earned the same amount of dividend of Rs. 186.66 crore from Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. and GAIL (India) Ltd. during the first six months of 2004-05 as during the corresponding period of last year.

(b) Crude oil produced by ONGC during April—September 2004 was 13.282 MMT compared to 12.727 MMT produced during the corresponding period of last year.

(c) ONGC's gross income from operations was Rs. 22497 crore during the first six months of 2004-05 as compared to Rs. 16835 crore during the corresponding period of last year.

Demand for petroleum products

†533. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of the petroleum products has increased during the last five years;

(b) if so, the annual average increase estimated thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the production of crude oil has been increased in view of its increasing demand in the country;

(d) if so, what has been the annual average production thereof; and

(e) the reasons for not increasing the domestic production?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of consumption of petroleum products during the period 1999-2000 to 2003-04 was of the order of 2.64%.

(c) Domestic production of crude oil has been fairly static in the last few years.

(d) The average annual domestic production of crude oil has been around 33 million tonnes.

(e) The main reasons for static production *inter-alia,* of crude oil in the country include absence of any major oil discovery in the last few years and ageing of some of the major fields in the country.

Reduction of State Taxes on Petroleum products

†534. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged upon all the State Governments to reduce the State taxes in order to bring down the prices of petrol and gas in the country;

(b) if so, the date when it was urged upon and from which State Government's response has been received; and

(c) the details of taxes on petrol, diesel and LPG levied in each State during October, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has requested the State Chief Ministers through his letters dated

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.